

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

May 10, 2026 –6th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

“Tell the Story”



Centering Words

(Psalm 66, John 14)

*Through fire and testing, God brings us to a place of blessing and promise.
The Holy Spirit leads us onto the great path of love.*

www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter

Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and
Amazon Fire TV

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Quienquiera que seas y dondequiera que estés en el camino de la vida, eres bienvenido aquí.

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – May 10, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

People of the Way, no matter the bends and curves in our path, Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.

The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus.

God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.

The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in writing God's dream into reality.

God gives us the Spirit, our Dream-Giver and Story-Keeper.

People of the Way, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-creators of love and abundant life.

We come to worship God and listen for the Spirit who inspires, guides, and helps us join in God's story, until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Unison Opening Prayer

God of all time and space,
you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation
at a time before and beyond all knowing.

Through the Word and the Spirit,
you continue in eternal love for all beings.

Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence,
your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world.

Shape us into the people you have made us to be –
poured out in creative mercy
for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:*Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

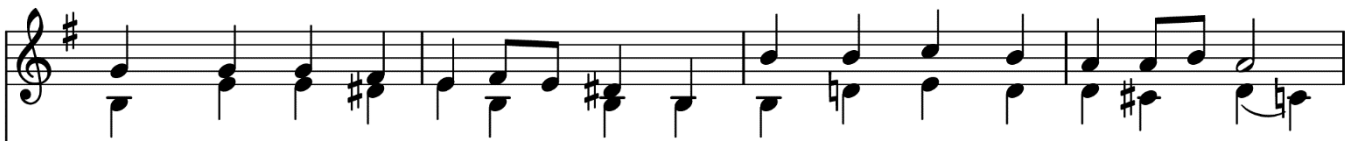
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell-ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be.



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!
Let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find that sec - ond rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways blessing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays – 2nd Tuesdays:** Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (*“The Tears of Things”* by Richard Rohr. Next meeting will be this Tuesday (May 12)
- **Wednesdays – 4:30pm** – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement).
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – evenings** SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –SSO Rehearsals
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - Southland Symphony – Saturday May 16 at 4pm

Para información en español, por favor hable con nosotros después del servicio.

Children’s Time

* Gloria

Kids’ Video

Glory to the Creator

The Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end, Amen, Amen.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a vocal line and a bass clef staff with a guitar accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the treble staff.

System 1: Chords: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C. Lyrics: Glo-ry to the Cre-a -tor, the Christ the Ho- ly Spi- rit

System 2: Chords: G/D, D⁷, G, C, G⁷, G⁷. Lyrics: three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

System 3: Chords: C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G⁷, C. Lyrics: shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

1 Peter 3:13-22 (The Message)

If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master.

Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath. It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

He went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact — saved from the water by the water.

The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience. Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. He's standing right alongside God, and what he says goes.

Acts 17:22-31 (The Message)

So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. “It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I’m here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you’re dealing with.

“The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn’t live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn’t take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don’t make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn’t play hide-and-seek with us. He’s not remote; he’s near. We live and move in him, can’t get away from him! One of your poets said it well: ‘We’re the God-created.’ Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for us, does it?

“God overlooks it as long as you don’t know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and he’s calling for a radical life-change. He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And he has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

Dr. Mann

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Sermon

“Tell the Story”

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*1 Peter 3, John 14*)

Fulfiller of our lives, we yearn to embody
your commandment of love
and pursue what we know is right.
We long to ease the plight of others,
even as we seek our own comfort.
Nurture our hope this day,
as we fulfill your commandment of love,
that we may live as your children
and abide in your Spirit. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Psalms 66*)

Even when we are tested by the refiner's fire,
God brings us to a place of laughter and light
on the other side of our trials.
The Advocate meets us in our suffering
and heals us in holy love.

Prayers of the People (Joys and Concerns)

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.
Amen

Offering

Invitation to Generosity (Pastor)

Please remember to send your offerings in so that we can continue our ministries.

(If you want a portion of your offering to be designated as something specific, just write that in the message area.) If you forget to write a note with the offering – just email us (info@BethelUCCOntario.org) or message us through Facebook.

Giving Options: In person – *We are not yet “passing the plate”. You may leave your offering in one of the offering plates (front of the sanctuary, or usher’s table in the rear).*

Give online at www.betheluccontario.org,



To use a credit or debit card, use the yellow “Donate” button (processed by PayPal – no PP account required), or green Tithe.ly button (Processed by Tithe.ly)



Use **ZELLE** (through your bank website or via the stand alone app) to transfer your offering to us directly from your bank. When you use Zelle, we are “Bethel Congregational Church” Our verified Zelle email is info@betheluccontario.org



MAIL - Just mail your check to Bethel Congregational Church
536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.



QR Code – Scan the code to send your offering to us through PayPal

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (Acts 17, John 14)

God of all creation, you offer us so many blessings.

For creating us in your image
and entrusting us to reveal your presence
throughout the world, we thank you.

Create blessings, even miracles,
through the gifts we now bring,
that others may sense your abiding presence
and know your extravagant love.

In gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.

1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story;
and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story
of Jesus' endless love.*

2 I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you
because I want to share it, because I know it's true. *[Refrain]*

3 I love to tell the story; it's pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *[Refrain]*

4 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song
will be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *[Refrain]*

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - dian glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

Unison Benediction

Go forth from this time and place but never from God's presence.

Go forth to witness and minister in the world.

Go forth knowing that as you go...the Holy One comes to you

With strength and courage for the journey.

Go, in peace to love and to serve the Holy One and God's good creation.

Amen

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Worship Sundays at 10 am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#)

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God sends us to serve, but God does not send us alone.

The Spirit is with us in the world, guiding our steps and protecting our paths.

*Christ yearns for us to be one in ministry and service,
and one in community and faith—a unity that we discover
through the Spirit's miraculous power in our lives.*

*Sent to serve, we are sent not only with the power of the Spirit,
but also with the power of unity with one another.*

*Embracing this unity with both the Holy Spirit and one another
opens a path to the "complete joy" that Christ prays we may one day know.*